



# Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Commissioner's NEWSLETTER

June 2008 • Vol. 3, No. 6

## KDFWR Strategic Plan in action

Since adoption of the KDFWR Strategic Plan FY 2008-2012 (July 1, 2007), the Department continues to make noticeable strides and progress on a number of strategic and operational objectives. To date, KDFWR has achieved in full the following objectives:

**1.1.e:** *To expand stream restoration projects, including Fees-in-Lieu-of Mitigation projects, by 50 percent by the end of FY 2012.*

Thanks to increased staffing, program recognition, and streamlined procedures, the department has already expanded stream restoration projects by 54 percent in our first year of the Strategic Plan.

**1.3.a:** *To increase the acreage enrolled in the Green River CREP by 25 percent by end of FY 2008.*

With the help of landowners enrolling 60,000 more acres in the Green River CREP, this objective has been accomplished. This year's enrollment brings the overall total to approximately 75,000 acres since the program began several years ago.

**3.4.a:** *To facilitate a web-based constituent support network by the end of FY 2008.*

The department has established a centralized website to facilitate a constituent-based support network, titled the Kentucky Conservation Coalition. The Kentucky Conservation Coalition has been used to advertise/publicize services, events and issues relating to the Foundation, the department, and fish and wildlife in general. An article promoting the Kentucky Conservation Coalition will appear in the July 2008 issue of *Kentucky Living*.

**5.1.b:** *To begin selling advertising in Kentucky Afield magazine by the end of FY 2008 (and increase the number of paid subscriptions).*

We have begun selling advertising in

*Kentucky Afield* – to help offset the costs of operation – and magazine revenues through the first 10 months of this fiscal year have already exceeded last year's record year.

Other general highlights thus far in our first year include:

**To educate and inform:**

- Kentucky Afield Television, in addition to the statewide broadcast on KET, is now being broadcast on new commercial stations in central Kentucky, on CWKYT, and eastern Kentucky, on WYMT. Select segments of Kentucky

Afield television can also be viewed by going to [MyOutdoorTV.com](http://MyOutdoorTV.com) and [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com). KDFWR has also secured two different sponsors to support Kentucky Afield Television, which include Tri County Cycles and Sportsman's Warehouse. Finally, Kentucky Afield Radio was launched to reach an even greater audience.

- The design/construction of a new entry area for the Salato Wildlife Education Center is under way, which will give visitors a quick, visual introduction to

**See "Plan," next page**

## Kinman is new KDFWR Interim Deputy Commissioner



Join me in congratulating Benjy Kinman for his acceptance of Interim Deputy Commissioner.

Benjy began his career with us as a Fisheries Biologist in 1976. He was promoted to Fisheries Research Biologist in 1984 and then to Fish and Wildlife Program Coordinator in 1986.

He has served as Fisheries Division Director since 2001.

The Commissioner's office looks forward to working with Benjy in this new challenge in his career.

—Jon Gassett

## WE GET MAIL

### *Letters to the Commissioner's Office*

**This from Neil Ward, Bell County Attorney:**

"I write to let the department know that the people of Bell County really appreciate biologist John Williams and Danny Parks, both of the Southeastern Fisheries District, who were indispensable in helping to obtain and deliver the trout for the youth fishing event held on May 3rd.

On Saturday, Conservation Officer Ray Lawson and his wife, Peggy, were at the event to help novice anglers catch their first trout. I commend your department on the commitment of your employees."

*NOTE: Mr. Ward provided a newspaper clipping about the event which will be posted on the board during our June Commission meeting.*

*Thank you to John, Danny and Ray for going above and beyond the call by helping with this event. These actions are what make our employees such key spokespersons for the Department.*

## Patton graduates from national leadership program

Hank Patton, Deputy Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) recently graduated from the National Conservation Leadership Institute, an intense seven-month experience to address one of the nation's most significant conservation challenges – preparing and retaining leaders. Patton is one of 36 chosen for the second class that culminated in April 2008.

In the next 10 years, nearly one-third of today's natural resource leaders will retire. According to research conducted in 2004, about 77 percent of state fish and wildlife agency senior leadership will retire



by 2015, and more than half of federal conservation leaders will retire by the end of 2007.

The National Conservation Leadership Institute was created to better equip tomorrow's conservation leaders in the latest leadership thinking and practice, and each Fellow learns from the nation's most influential conservation leaders and leadership experts including Harvard's Kennedy School of Leadership professor Marty Linsky, co-author of the book, *Leadership on the Line*. Through the Institute, 22 state fish and wildlife employees, 6 federal conservation agency employees, 3 industry employees and 3 nongovernmental agency employees worked together over the past seven months on priority leadership challenges and solutions.

"This year, from all across the nation

### **"Plan," continued**

the agency and what it is about.

- The department and its Turkey/Furbearer program has recently helped develop a web page for "Trapper Look-up", which is intended to alleviate furbearer depredation/damage problems by allowing landowners suffering damage the ability to search and contact local fur trappers who will trap on respective farms.

#### ***To provide more access and opportunity:***

- The department has completed four boat ramp projects in Russell, McLean, Henderson and Daviess Counties over the past fiscal year. Bank access projects

are underway in McLean, Martin, Carroll, Anderson and Warren Counties.

- The department was successful in convincing Ft. Thomas (in Northern Kentucky) to provide an allowance for landowners to take deer in city limits to help control the population.
- Over the past fiscal year, more than 70,000 acres of private lands have been enrolled in Wildlife Management Agreements:

Additional information about all of our Strategic Plan objectives and progress during our first year can be found on the department's website under "Planning for the Future."

**See "Patton," page 4**



## 8 new officers graduate DOCJT Basic Training Academy

On May 16, 2008, eight new conservation officers graduated from the Department of Criminal Justice Training Law Enforcement Basic Training Academy in Richmond.

Conservation Officer in training Loren S. Clark, who will be assuming his duties in Daviess County, led DOCJT's graduating class Number 392's 27 graduates representing 15 law enforcement agencies by winning the class's Academic Achievement Award, Performance Award in Physical Fitness and Firearms Proficiency Award.

Andrew J. Black was the class Special Projects Officer and Jacob Tye Bowman was its Squad Leader.

Black will be working in Menifee



Kneeling from left John C. Jackson, Jason L. Wells and Jacob Tye Bowman. Standing are training instructor Sgt. Richard Adkins, Andrew J. Black, Gabe Welch, Loren S. Clark, Dustin Mullins, Raymond W. Durham, and training supervisor Lt. Larry Estes.

County, and Bowman in Lee County. The other five new law enforcement officers are Raymond W. Durham, assigned to Ohio County, John C. Jackson, Simpson County, Dustin Mullins, Henderson County, Gabe Welch, Taylor County and Jason Wells,

Marion County.

They are currently completing the balance of the Fish and Wildlife Academy and will assume their district assignments in July.

### OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

#### Minton graduates U of L SPI Administrative Officers Course

Sgt. Myra Minton, District 3, graduated from the University of Louisville's Southern Police Institute Administrative Officers Course on May 8, 2008.

Sgt. Minton is the 4th supervisor from the Law Enforcement Division to graduate from that course.

As a result of the extremely hard work put in by Sgt. Minton she was granted the award of "Dean's Scholar"

for earning the grade of "A" in each of her courses.

#### Kemp graduates DOCJT's Academy of Police Supervision

Sgt. Kenny Kemp graduated from the Department of Criminal Justice Training Academy of Police Supervision on May 23, 2008. Sgt. Kemp is assigned to Butler County in District 2.

#### NASBLA conducts BUI training

On May 6, 7, 8, 2008 29 Law En-

forcement Officers attended a training session at Barren River State Resort Park that focused on BUI detection and arrest procedures.

The training was conducted by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) certified instructors. This advanced training course equipped our officers with the skills to better detect those individuals who consume alcohol or drugs and operate boats on Kentucky's waterways.

## Officer Finn selected as AFWA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Conservation Officer Jeff Finn has been chosen the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Finn was chosen over officers from throughout the U.S. He will receive the award at the AFWA annual meeting that will be held in Saratoga Springs, NY in September.

Officer Finn was chosen for his innovative and effective approaches to F&W Law Enforcement. Officer Finn is a 24-year veteran of the department and is assigned to the Special Investigations Unit as an Internet Crimes Investigator.



### NEW LIEUTENANTS

Recently promoted to lieutenant in Law Enforcement were Chad Parker (center left) in the first District and Mike Stephenson (center right) in the fourth. They were joined (from left) by 4th district Captain Todd Rogers, Commissioner Jon Gassett, Colonel Bob Milligan, and 1st District Captain Larry Ashford.

### "Patton," continued

and from the potential hundreds of natural resource related conservation organizations, 36 Fellows were selected through a competitive process to participate in this year's world class leadership experience," says Steve Williams, Chairman of the Institute board and President of the Wildlife Management Institute. "Those selected represented a diverse mix of people and perspectives from across the country and across organizational boundaries. We believe that the Institute will have powerful results."

In November 2007, the 36 Fellows conquered the Institute's intense 10-day residency at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. In late April, the Fellows reconvened at Big Cedar Lodge in Ridgedale, Missouri to present the results of their five-month leadership challenge projects where they had individually experimented with their learning from the fall and carried out real, in-the-trenches applications

for their respective organizations.

Patton, a native of Booneville, Kentucky, joined KDFWR in 2005. He is in charge of all Administrative functions of the Department, including law enforcement, administrative services, development, and engineering. Hank resides in Berea, KY with his wife Susan and daughter Becky. His leadership challenge during NCLI was establishing a mechanism where all Kentuckians invest in fish and wildlife conservation. These resources are beneficial for all Kentuckians, and have an annual economic impact of over \$4.5 billion. The responsibility of maintaining these resources currently rests on the back of the hunters, anglers and boaters of the Commonwealth through license and permit sales, yet it is a benefit to all citizens. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources receive no Kentucky General Fund appropriations, and use no state tax dollars for conservation.

Offered each year to a select group of approximately 36 individuals identified by their nominating organizations as "high

potentials," the Institute is by no measure only a training program. Each Fellow was chosen for potential to build effective coalitions, lead organizational change, and deliver results; as well as for their work experience and goals.

Executive Director of the Institute, Dr. Sally Guynn, says, "Training alone is insufficient to develop the extraordinary leadership called for in our uncertain times. The Institute is a unique, comprehensive learning experience designed to challenge assumptions, teach skills, facilitate networking, and strengthen confidence. It is not a redundant program; it is a remarkable experience for preparing an extraordinary leadership capacity for the future."

The National Conservation Leadership Institute is supported by the nation's most passionate conservation interests. Sponsors include: The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, The Weatherby Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies among others.





Kentucky Afield TV's award winning crew was joined by the show's first host, Ron Rhody, recently for a reflection into the early years. From left are Executive Producer Scott Moore, Charlie Baglan, Brian Volland, Rhody, Nathan Sangster, and host Tim Farmer.

## And the winner is... "Kentucky Afield" TV

2008 is proving to be a banner year for the nation's longest-running outdoor show. While the real prize is the devotion of our viewers, it's rewarding to note how we measure up to other production efforts around the region and nation.

For starters, hats off to Producer Brian Volland and Tim Farmer for taking first place in the National Association of Government Communicators media competition in May. The NAGC annually honors excellence in communications produced by government. Competition here can be formidable. NASA, US Army, Homeland Security and other prominent budget-heavy agencies are contenders in this group. The "Cogan's Woods" story; however, was the hands-down winner in the television category.

In the one other competition "Kentucky Afield" TV entered this year, The

Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences or "Regional Emmys," for short, we are, again, in the hardware hunt.

In an announcement, June 2, our show received three nominations. Being nominated means an entry has ranked well in judging, an achievement in itself. Tim Farmer is nominated for his work as a host and moderator. Executive Producer Scott Moore has two Emmys in his sites; "Patrolling Lake Cumberland" and another for his skill behind the camera in producing the youth duck hunt in Oscar, Ky., in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited.

Emmys awarded by the Ohio Valley Chapter acknowledge the very best productions from the prior year in a four-state region covering 13 television markets. Winners will be announced August 9 at the Westin in Cincinnati.

## New Employees

The Fisheries Division would like to welcome **Nicholas Keeton** who was recently hired as a Fish and Wildlife Technician II. Nick will be working with Doug Henley, Ohio River Research Fisheries Biologist, on a variety of sport fish projects on the Ohio and Kentucky Rivers.

A few of these projects include: an evaluation of supplemental stocking of fingerling largemouth bass in the Markland Pool of the Ohio River, impacts of spawning habitat manipulations on largemouth bass year-class production in Meldahl Pool, population metrics of catfish on the Ohio River, an evaluation of supplemental stocking of sauger in the Kentucky River, and an evaluation of Morone stockings in the Kentucky River.

Nick had previously worked at the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery as a seasonal employee in 2006, 2007, and part of 2008. Nick has experience with fish handling, spawning techniques, and fish care and feeding. Nick is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys spending his free time fishing. Nick's enthusiasm will make him a great addition to the Fisheries Division research team.

The Fisheries Division would also like to welcome **Eliza Petzinger** who was recently hired as a Fish and Wildlife Technician II at the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery.

Eliza will be helping to rear and care for largemouth bass, channel catfish, blue catfish, sauger, bluegill, and lake sturgeon that are stocked throughout the Commonwealth.

She will also be involved in the spawning and hatching of white bass and hybrid striped bass that are ultimately reared to stocking size at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery.

Eliza joins the Fisheries Division from the Department of Environmental Protection – Division of Water, where she was previously an Environmental Technician III. Welcome aboard.

## KDFWR Information Technology recognized for service to public

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's telecheck system revolutionized deer management in the state. For their efforts to develop this system, Information Technology employees David Bruce and Chip Quarles recently won a "Best Application Serving the Public" award during the 2008 Kentucky Digital Government Summit held in Lexington.

Under the old paper-based deer check-in system, biologists had to wait three months before they had enough information to make recommendations for the next season. This lag time forced biologists to rush to analyze harvest numbers. It also forced yearly emergency regulations on the deer seasons and complicated the production of the hunting guide.

However, with the telecheck system devised by Bruce and Quarles, hunters now have the ability to check-in their deer at any time from any telephone. Hunters no longer have to wait until the next



Left to right: David Bruce, Mac Quarles, Chip Quarles, Donna Covington and Patrick O'Connell.

morning for their check-in station to open.

The computerized system also allowed biologists nearly instantaneous information about the progress of the season, giving them more time to make recommendations about upcoming seasons and zones. The telecheck system also allows the information-hungry public to track deer harvest by county and by weapon. As an

added bonus, conservation officers now can easily access harvest information about a particular hunter.

The newest feature of telecheck is a feature that allows hunters access to harvest data of individuals. This allows hunters to make any corrections to their own records. It also has increased the reporting of suspected poaching activity.

## Retirements

Deputy Commissioner **Mark Cramer** has decided to retire from the Department effective May 31. After many years of service, he has vacated his office at Fish and Wildlife Headquarters and retired to the golf course, to the woods and to the water.

Mark started his career with KDFWR in 1986 as a Nongame Program Wildlife Biologist. He moved to the Environmental Section in 1987 and on to hold the position as a District Wildlife Biologist in 1989.

In 1993 he served as a Fish and Wildlife Technical Program Coordinator working on Special Projects. In 1999 he was promoted to Fish and Wildlife Program Manager where he was instrumental in overseeing Federal Aid received by the Department.

Mark has finished out his career with the Department as Deputy Commissioner since 2003.

Mark has been a great asset to the Department and his knowledge of past, present and future history will be missed.

Wildlife biologist **Tom Edwards** of Madison County retired effective May 30. Fellow Wildlife Division staff hosted a celebration of Tom's 27-year career at the Miller Welch-Central Kentucky WMA near Berea.

During his time with KDFWR, which began in 1981, Tom worked in a variety of capacities, including furbearer biologist, district wildlife biologist, Assistant Director for Wildlife, Muddy

Creek Project wildlife biologist, and most recently Public Lands Biologist in the Bluegrass Region.

As Assistant Director, Tom helped steer the Division during a difficult time, during the sickness and after the passing of Wildlife Director Lauren Schaaf in the early-mid 1990s. However, Tom found his professional calling to be the field, where he spent the last half of his career.

Tom concluded his KDFWR tenure with work on the Blue Grass Army Depot, where he helped to plant hundreds of thousands of trees to restore bottomland hardwood forest; prescribed-burned thou-

**See "Retirements," page 9**





## Nature Plates: Turning one dollar into two all day long



By Tony Wheatley,  
Land Acquisition Coordinator

My hip still hurts from walking that 1,600-acre property that's for sale a little west of Lake Cumberland. It's not ours yet, but maybe.

Looking down at my notes, I can see this would be a perfect fit in our management strategy. White oak stands, pastures, wild turkey and two Boone and Crockett deer were harvested here last fall.

But with the town of Edmonton growing, I can easily see others being interested in this land in the not-too-distant future. Fortunately, the landowner is a conservationist and is willing to consider talking to us about an offer.

This type of scenario is as common as burs on your socks but we can't just whip out our Visa and buy. Thanks to Kentucky's nature license plates, a valuable system is in place that minimizes the impact on the money we get from hunting and fishing licenses. In fact, in some cases some of our most choice property, like Letourneau Woods, didn't cost us a dime.

We seize federal matching opportunities whenever possible. That may be

a 50/50 match or a 25 state/75 federal match. Still, our part needs to come from somewhere. That somewhere is the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund.

The Heritage Land Fund receives money from obscure places such as environmental fines and unmined minerals tax, but also from the sales of Kentucky nature license plates.

Bobcats, cardinals and such each put \$10 toward this fund. Every year, Fish & Wildlife receives over \$300,000. Now that's driving home support for the great outdoors.

We have a seat at the table with four other member agencies – Parks, Forestry, Wild Rivers and Nature Preserves which receive the same amount from the fund. 100% of nature plate proceeds buy and safeguard the biological diversity of the commonwealth.

They provide habitat for native plants and animals, and recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing, for everyone. Because the Fund makes competitive grants to local governments and schools, nature plate properties also include city parks, green space and outdoor

classrooms for kids and graduate students alike. Best of all, they mean our heritage lands are here to stay.

These butterfly plates and other critters that have landed on our bumpers over the years may not be readily recognized as "Fish & Wildlife" because they're actually much greater. And for as much work as they do for biodiversity, they do just as much with diversity of people.

The family minivan at the mall sports the same plate as the 4WD in the field on the second Saturday of November. From back yards to the back woods, from Bass Pro to Salato, different demographics share a common interest – wildlife.

Since the program began in 1995, a cool \$8 mil has helped purchase or protect 29,000 acres across the state; Fish & Wildlife's chunk of that is 4,318 acres purchased with Heritage funds. With over 140,000 acres statewide that we either own or manage, Fish & Wildlife is the largest municipal landowner in the state.

Other numbers aren't as gratifying. There are 22 more plate choices on the

[See "Plates," page 12](#)

## Fisheries Division hosts youth hospice fishing event

The Fisheries Division hosted 11 youth and four volunteers from Hospice of Louisville in an annual Hospice Kids Fishing event on June 4, 2008, at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery. This annual event is sponsored in part by the Kentucky Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

The day began with a wonderful cookout of hotdogs, burgers, chips, cookies, and other snacks. Jason Russell and Don Bunnell coordinated the cooking and preparation of food. The food for this event was provided by the Kentucky Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Following a big lunch, the kids spent a few moments skipping rocks in Elkhorn Creek before journeying over to the channel catfish rearing ponds. Each youth was paired up with a Fisheries Division employee, a handful of worms, and fishing pole.

Everybody spread out amongst two hatchery ponds and began fishing. The day could not have gone more perfect as every kid caught numerous channel catfish all afternoon long.

For many of these kids, this was the first time they had ever been fishing and catching channel catfish all afternoon

produced a lot of smiles. After about an hour or so of fishing, the day ended with a group photograph and kids walking back to the bus talking about how they can't wait until next year to come back and fish again.

A special thank you to all those

employees who volunteered to assist with this event. Thanks also go out to the Kentucky Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for purchasing food, drinks, and bait. Lastly, thanks to Don Bunnell for donating ground beef to make burgers for the kids.





## Bourbon Festival Sampler raises funds for Salato

The Salato Wildlife Education Center partnered with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Kentucky Bourbon Festival, both non-profit organizations, Saturday, June 7, and presented the fifth annual Kentucky Bourbon Festival, Salato Center Sampler.

This year's event proved to be the most successful yet! All nine major distilleries were represented and the more than 400 attending met Master Distillers, sampled various bourbons, and collected "rocks glasses" to take home.

The food was plentiful this year as well. Thirteen groups provided a variety of tasty foods from fried oysters to pulled pork. A local band, "The Shining," played great music for the crowd.

A silent auction featured enough donated goods to fill the entryway to the exhibit hall.

Though the visitors came for bourbon, food, and entertainment, the event itself is about raising funds for the Salato Center. To that end, Salato's Conservation

Education Program Leaders (CEPLs) and docents provided interpretive tours and staffed the outdoor exhibits to answer questions and inform guests about Kentucky Wildlife.

Rick Hill arranged for an exhibit of his original art work in the Schaaf Room and a display of Salato's educational materials was set up in the old gift shop space.

Although we do not yet have final figures, we estimate that close to 400 tickets were sold, \$30 of each going directly to benefit Salato. The silent auction raised more than \$4,000, and we were pleased to receive a call Monday from an individual who, thanks to the event, is interested in a large donation of materials we have needed for some time. Keep your fingers crossed!

Our thanks go out to all the KDFWR personnel who helped plan and prepare for the event – and especially those who helped clean up afterwards. We couldn't do it without you all.

### "Retirements," continued

sands of grassland acres and oldfields to restore native grasslands; helped facilitate thousands of hunting opportunities by members of the public; and worked with a variety of interests to help improve Muddy Creek, a priority watershed in Kentucky.

Tom was the most highly trained Wildlife staff member in the subject of prescribed burning, and he helped to train dozens of KDFWR staff and other organizations' members in the habitat practice; he also helped to lead the Division to more ecologically-concerned and larger-scale burning efforts.

Perhaps Tom's most notable contribution to the profession was his mentorship of a generation of biologists in the Division, so his presence will be greatly missed by those who follow in his footsteps. We congratulate Tom on a job well done and wish him the very best in his retirement!

**Anita Hardin**, formerly an Internal Policy Analyst with the Administrative Services Division, retired effective May 31. Anita had started her state government career with Fish and Wildlife in 1982, and eventually found her way home to us in 2006 after spending more than fifteen years with the Department of Education.

We wish Anita the best and thank her for all her hard work and determination.

Lieutenant **Chuck Bolton** retired from Fish and Wildlife on May 31. Lt. Bolton was employed by the state for 22 years. He began his career as a Park Ranger in 1986 and then became a Water Patrol Officer in 1990.

In 1999 he was promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Bolton spent his entire career working in the 3rd District. Chuck is married and has two children that is he looking forward to spending a lot more time with while he enjoys his retirement. We appreciate his years of dedicated service to the Department.

## Law Enforcement receives Homeland Security grant

The Law Enforcement Division has been awarded two grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security for equipment that will be used to help provide security for locks, dams and bridges along the Ohio River and Barkley and Kentucky Lakes.

The Division will purchase boats, vehicles and other related equipment with the funds. These grants require no person-

nel match and will enable officers to be properly equipped when called upon to respond. They will be better able to maintain extended security for any catastrophic event in and around the water.

Homeland Security is beginning to focus on this country's assets on and near commercial waterways and are providing funds, to purchase needed equipment to agencies capable of providing long-term proactive and responsive assistance.

## Kentucky Lake improvements and renovations

The Patterson Islands are a series of eight small islands on the southern portion of Kentucky Lake that resides within the borders of the Commonwealth.

These islands are unique to Kentucky Lake in that few islands occur on this large main stem reservoir on the Tennessee River system. These islands provide spawning and nursery habitat to a variety of fish species, as well as nesting areas for waterfowl and other birds.

These islands also act as an effective wave barrier and protect sport fish habitat behind these islands from waves generated by barge traffic on Kentucky Lake.

Over time, these islands have slowly begun to erode as a result of wave action and fluctuating water levels. Existing trees and other vegetation have helped slow the erosion process, however, they are not enough to protect and maintain the stability of these islands.

In 2003, the Fisheries Division began funding for the placement of riprap along the river channel to help armor and protect these islands from further erosion.

Island Four was determined to be the most critical and a total of 3,143 linear feet of riprap was placed along its eastern shore. This work was finally completed in 2005.

With the completion of island Four, work began on island Two in 2006. During 2006, a total of 425 linear feet of riprap was placed. Another 280 linear feet of riprap was placed in 2008, bringing the total to 705 linear feet of riprap. This island has approximately 1,561 feet of linear shoreline, thus this island is approximately 48 percent complete.

Funding for the placement of riprap has been provided by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, TVA, and several bass fishing tournament organizations.



**Top:** Placement of riprap along island #2 during the summer. Riprap is placed approximately 5-10 feet away from the bank to allow sediment to fill in behind the island.

**Bottom:** Riprap along island #4 during high water. As the lake recedes, sediment will be deposited behind the riprap.





New boat courtesy dock placed at Kenlake State Park. The boat courtesy dock was constructed by the Engineering Division and funded in part by BASS and Sport Fish Restoration Federal Funds.

## Kenlake State Park gets new courtesy boat dock

Kenlake State Park is a popular boating access site location for both anglers and recreational boaters on Kentucky Lake. Located at Kenlake State Park, this access site has also become a popular location for fishing tournaments ranging in size from a few boats to over 100 boats.

Unfortunately, the boat courtesy dock at Kenlake State Park is old, weathered, and in desperate need of replacement.

Organizations such as BASS regularly schedule tournaments at Kentucky Lake, due to its reputation as a top black bass fishery throughout the Southeast. Often, organizations such as BASS offer a portion of the proceeds from these fishing tournaments back to the state fish and wildlife agency for projects dealing with sport fish habitat improvement or access site development.

In partnership with BASS, the old,

existing boat courtesy dock was recently replaced with a newer dock that will help accommodate boaters launching and taking their boats out of Kentucky Lake.

This new dock can accommodate eight boats and will be accessible to boaters even during the winter drawdown period (five-foot lake elevation drawdown). Total cost of this new boat courtesy dock was approximately \$28,000.

BASS provided 25 percent of the cost, while the remainder was provided by Sport Fish Restoration (Boating Access) Federal Funds. This project highlights the importance of partnerships between the Department and other resource groups such as fishing organizations, angling groups, county and city governments. Better yet, no State Game and Fish Funds were used for this project!

## Updated purchasing rules

KDFWR continues to make requests for blanket exceptions to the Executive Order purchasing restrictions.

As of this newsletter, the department has been successful in obtaining the following NEW blanket approvals for purchasing under the Executive Order.

As before, these new items may be purchased and paid for regardless of cost (without having to undergo the added Executive Order approval process). Internal procedures still apply.

- Information & Education operational & maintenance items for camp, Salato and Ky. Afield TV – less than \$1000
- Hunter education volunteer incentive awards
- Newspaper advertisements
- WMA maintenance and operational items – less than \$1000

(A complete list of Executive Order Purchase Blanket Exemptions and procedural requirements can still be found on [FW Net](#).)

NOTE: Although **bulk fuel** and **propane** have previously received blanket approval, it is important to remember that, before purchasing bulk fuel and propane – Finance Purchases must first award a contract.

Please wait for notification of contract award from Sharon Duvall, Purchasing Section Supervisor, before calling vendor to request delivery. At this time, there are no propane master agreements and only (2) bulk fuel vendors: Midwest Terminal for McCracken Co. and White Oil for Taylor Co.

The Administrative Services Division will continue to facilitate the appropriate level of approvals as quickly as possible. Thanks for your continued patience.



## KCOA DONATES \$10,000 TO KENTUCKY LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Members of the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association presented the Department of Criminal Justice Training in Richmond a check for \$10,000 to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation last week that will be used for scholarships for families and dependents of officers lost in the line of duty.

### **"Plates," continued**

road this year than last with more on the drawing board for 2009 – and all are worthy causes. We're slicing that pie into skinnier thinner pieces.

As a result, nature plate sales have slipped 20% from this time a year ago. As this Heritage Land funding to our agency slows, the ripple effect stymies or eliminates other department program budgets. Conversely, if plate sales hit the gas, it's a happier day for all.

In January, three new nature plates appeared on our highways to keep the project fresh; hummingbird, dragonflies

and Cumberland Falls. From a ballot of eleven designs in 2006, the public voted these as most popular. As plates are renewed, the new designs will replace the butterfly, cardinal and bobcat.

The general public may not be aware of the intricacies of nature that nature plates support, but they trust in the ideal, they trust in us. We hope that past plate holders will stay with us and it's up to us to help show how their \$10 makes a difference.

As for the Metcalf County property mentioned earlier, we're taking this "doubling our money" strategy a step farther. By partnering with the Kentucky Division

of Forestry, we can tap a Federal Forest Legacy grant.

Bottom line is, because our law enforcement and wildlife management strengths make us a more viable partner, our \$300,000 investment could make us owner/manager of a property worth possibly \$1.5 million. Again, our part is purely Heritage Land monies funded, in part, by nature plates.

This highly visible but little known program does good work and is supported by nearly 100,000 motorists every year. Please, next time you renew your license plate, ask for a nature plate and renew Kentucky, too.